

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 AEC-11

FEA-02 IO-14 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08

TRSE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /226 W

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R 301240Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7121

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EGEN, FR, XF, IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S FRENCH VISIT

REF: PARIS 15963

1. AS SHAH AND PARTY JUST RETURNED FROM FRANCE YESTERDAY, WE HAVE NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF VISIT WITH THOSE WHO TOOK PART. OUR INITIAL VIEW, HOWEVER, BASED UPON PRESS COVERAGE AND REPORTING FROM EMBASSY PARIS, IS THAT VISIT DID NOT BREAK AS MUCH NEW ECONOMIC GROUND AS MIGHT SEEM TO BE CASE AT FIRST GLANCE. BILLION DOLLAR ADVANCE OVER NEXT THREE YEARS ON PURCHASES IS NEW, AS IS ACTUAL SIGNING OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION ACCORD WHICH HAD BEEN PLANNED EARLIER, AND THERE MAY BE OTHER NEW ELEMENTS IN NUCLEAR PACKAGE. BUT OTHER THAN THOSE, DISCUSSION SEEM TO HAVE COVERED ROUGHLY SAME GROUND AS TALKS WITH GERMANS, ITALIANS, BRITISH, CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADIANS AND OTHERS AND TO HAVE RESULTED IN SAME GENERALIZED

EXPRESSION OF INTENT TO WORK OUT SPECIFIC DEALS AT SOME FUTURE TIME WHICH ULTIMATELY SHOULD INVOLVE VERY LARGE INVESTMENT.

2. IN HIS JUNE 27 PRESS CONFERENCE SHAH GAVE IMPRESSION OF VAST NEW AGREEMENTS IN OIL EXPLORATION, NATURAL GAS PROCESSING AND DELIVERIES, PETROCHEMICALS, TEHRAN SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION, ARMS PURCHASES, AND FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN "EVERY MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT" IN IRAN. BUT HE QUALIFIED EVERYTHING WITH SUCH CONDITIONS AS "IF YOUR PRICES ARE INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE," "DEPENDING UPON FRANCE'S PROPOSALS," OR "IN LINE WITH AVAILABILITIES" TO POINT WHERE THERE IS VERY LITTLE CONCRETE LEFT. AFTER GERMANS, ITALIANS AND OTHERS WERE HERE PRESS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT IN EACH CASE MULTIBILLION DOLLAR DEALS HAD BEEN WRAPPED UP WHICH ON CLOSER SCRUTINY TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN MERELY FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

3. ON OTHER HAND, FROM VIEWPOINT OF TEHRAN IT SEEMS THAT VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN AS IMPORTANT POLITICALLY AS ECONOMICALLY, MARKING END OF PROLONGED PERIOD OF COOLNESS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND PUTTING FRANCE BACK IN RACE FOR BIGGER SHARE OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN IRAN.
HELMS

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